Title

By Taylor Allison

Central Michigan University

ABSTRACT:

KEYWORDS:

\*still drafting; many notes/ideas written down, haven’t constructed paragraphs yet\*

Social Media/Text Messaging: How It Effects the Way We Communicate

How often do you catch yourself texting or tweeting one of your friends while you are in the same room as them? Whether you’ve quoted a relatable tweet to your friend’s twitter page regardless of the fact that they’re sitting right next to you, or whether you’ve exchanged text messages between you and your best friend about how awkward it is being in the same room as your ex-boyfriend; majority of us are guilty of communicating through our devices rather than face to face. Instead of conversing with each other directly, we have become so accustom to looking down at our phones and talking with one another through a screen. This form of communication is a huge way majority of our society has learned to converse with one another. Back in the day people did not have texting, email, and social media to communicate back and forth with one another. People were forced to speak with one another face to face or over the phone. This advancement of technology has changed the way we communicate and it has created many advantages, as well as many disadvantages in the way communicate with one another.

Social Media is a very popular tool, especially for the younger generation. It is very uncommon to hear of someone without a Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook account. We heavily rely on these cites to stay connected with friends and family when we cannot physically be present with those people. These forms of social media have become so popular that we tend to use it as a method to communicate even when we have the opportunity to interact with one another face to face. It has become such a huge distraction in our everyday lives, engaging so precisely with our devices instead of engaging with the people and things surrounding us in the moment. This addiction to our devices has changed the way we communicate, therefore creating a miscommunication between one another.

Slang is heavily used on social media, as well as text messaging; the two go hand in hand. People want their message to be heard and they want to put their message out there in a quick, easy fashion. LOL, WBU, where r u, WTF, TTYL, IK, ILY, K, OMW: these are all forms of slang used when communicating through texting and social media. Many of these examples can be pretty straight forward, but depending on the context they are used, they can be highly misinterpreted. Communicating through writing is that it lacks a lot of important elements used in order to interpret the full message of the messenger. When conversing with someone in a face to face setting, you are able to hear the tone of their voice. This is very important when interpreting a message because the tone of someone’s voice can completely change the the message being sent. It can be the difference between an angry response, or an excited response. Another important element when understanding the content of a message is body language. Body language can often be fibbed, but knowing the smaller instances of body movements can tell you if someone is bored with the conversation, or if someone is interested. Because we focus so much on communicating through these social media cites and texts rather than phone calls or person to person interaction, it is inevitable that we have gained a sense of miscommunication between one-another more-so in this generation than pervious generations.

Slang can have more than one meaning, as well as more than one interpretation due to the lack of elements of communication through this special language. For example, LOL is mostly interpreted as “laugh out loud.” Although this is what the acronym stands for, it does not necessarily mean that the person using it is actually laughing out loud. It is very popular for the younger generation to use LOL as a filler. When two people are texting one another, LOL is often placed in majority of sentences, sometimes more than once, in order to portray a less seriousness and more relaxed impression within the conversation. Other times the person can find something funny, but not actually be laughing out loud. Because we are unable to know whether or not someone is using LOL as a filler in conversation or to actually show that they find something funny, this can cause a misinterpretation.

“K.”- One of the most dreadful and misinterpreted messages when received from somebody. “K” has a large variety of different meanings depending on the context it is being used in, and the person it is being sent from.